

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Turbo encoded information that comprises first systematic bits, first parity bits, second systematic bits, and second parity bits is decoded by supplying the first systematic bits and the first parity bits to a first decoder; supplying the second systematic bits and the second parity bits to a second decoder; and operating the first and second decoders in parallel for a number,  $m$ , of half-iterations, wherein  $m \geq 1$ . For each of the  $m$  half-iterations, the first decoder utilizes soft information supplied as an output from the second decoder in a preceding half-iteration, and the second decoder utilizes soft information supplied as an output from the first decoder in the preceding half-iteration. An early iteration termination decision is made by, after one or more of the  $m$  half-iterations, deciding whether to stop operating the first and second decoders by comparing an output from the first decoder with an output from the second decoder.